

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PARIS 26367

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TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: STATUS OF
ARAB RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS

REF: PARIS 26144

AMEMBASSY ROME FOR DR. MOREY, DEPUTY ASST. SEC. FOR IO:
SECSTATE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE BUFFUM

1. FOLLOWING LENGTHY, IF PREDICTABLE, ARAB INTERVEN-
TIONS IN DEBATE ON SUBJECT ITEM WHICH BEGAN MORNING OF
NOVEMBER 6, SITUATION IMPROVED AS A RESULT:

(A) FRENCH AND BELGIAN INTERVENTIONS, IN THAT ORDER,
PROPOSING ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER
ISSUE ANEW WITH A VIEW TO COMING UP WITH "SOLUTION"
OTHER THAN THAT PROPOSED BY ORIGINAL ARAB TEXT;

(B) INTRODUCTION, AS RESULT INTENSIVE US DELEGATION
LOBBYING, BY COSTA RICA WITH CO-SPONSORS OF HAITI,
NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, NEPAL AND AUSTRALIA OF
AMENDMENT TEXT DRAFTED BY DAHOMEYAN AND REPORTED IN
REFTEL.

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2. COSTA RICANS SOFTENED SLIGHTLY THE LANGUAGE REPORTED

IN PARA 2 REFTTEL BY CALLING FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD STUDY
"IN CASE NECESSARY" ON "MEANS OF COMPULSION." HAITI
FURTHER TENTATIVELY AGREED TO ACCEPT PERMDEL SUGGESTION
THAT ORIGINAL ARAB TEXT BE AMENDED TO REFER ONLY TO
"BEING GUIDED BY PRECEDENTS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,"
WITHOUT CONTINUING CITATION OF 14TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
WHICH ADOPTED INITIAL SANCTIONS AGAINST PORTUGAL THAT
ARABS NOW SEEK AGAINST ISRAEL. SECONDLY, HAITIANS
WILLING TO CONSIDER AT OUR SUGGESTION THAT PHRASE
"CONDEMNS ISRAEL" BE SOFTENED TO "CONDEMNS THE ATTITUDE
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL."

3. ARAB LOBBYING GRADUALLY WORE DOWN ORIGINALLY IN-
TENDED AFRICAN CO-SPONSORS TO POINT WHERE NONE WILLING
TO BE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NEW LANGUAGE FROM FLOOR SO THAT
DELEGATION HAD TO OBTAIN COSTA RICAN, HAITIAN AND OTHER
CO-SPONSORS. HOWEVER, DAHOMEYAN AMBASSADOR WILL
INTERVENE TOMORROW IN CONTINUING DEBATE IN FAVOR WORKING
GROUP CONCEPT.

4. PERMREP JONES PLANS TO MAKE VERY LOW-KEYED INTER-
VENTION IN FAVOR OF WORKING GROUP CONCEPT ON BASIS US
TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR DIALOGUE, CAREFUL REFLECTION
AND MODERATION. BELGIANS AND FRENCH HAVE BEEN CONSULTED
AND FEEL US INTERVENTION WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. ARAB REACTIONS TO WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL RANGE FROM
ANGER AMONG HARD-LINERS TO IMPLICIT RELIEF AMONG MORE
MODERATES, ACCORDING OUR SOUNDINGS. WHILE IT FAR TOO
SOON TO PREDICT COURSE ARABS WILL ULTIMATELY FOLLOW, IT
PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT EGYPTIAN INTERVENTION STRESSED
NEED FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION IN UNESCO.

6. SUMMING UP THERE HAS BEEN POSITIVE PROGRESS TO THE
EXTENT THAT FIRST ROUND HAS ENDED WITHOUT OUR BEING
KNOCKED OUT.
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